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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant: Chun-Hsiang Chiang

Application: WIRE MANAGEMENT MEMBER AND ELECTRIC CABLE CONNECTOR WITH WIRE MANAGEMENT MEMBER

Serial No.: 09/960,172

Filing Date: September 21, 2001

Art Unit: 2833

Examiner: Edwin A. Leon

Case: A1-082 US

REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF THE APPEAL
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.193(b)(2)(ii)

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence along with any documents referred to as being attached, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: January 30, 2004

Kerri Richardson

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.193(b)(2)(ii), Applicant respectfully requests reinstatement of the appeal in connection with the above-identified United States patent application.

In response to the Communication issued on June 26, 2003, Applicant filed a Notice of Appeal on July 10, 2003. Applicant later filed an Appeal Brief on September 11, 2003.

In response to the Appeal Brief, the Examiner issued a Final Office Action on December 2, 2003, in which the Examiner stated:

> PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection set forth below. To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:
>
> (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
>
> (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.
>
> If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Thus, Applicant elects option #2 and hereby requests reinstatement of the appeal. A supplemental appeal brief is filed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

MOLEX INCORPORATED

Date: January 30, 2004

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SUPPLEMENTAL APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
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Date: January 30, 2004

Kerri Richardson

This is an appeal from a final rejection of claims 1-15 and 17-22 that are pending in the present application. The final rejection was made in an Official Action issued in connection with the present application on December 2, 2003, in which the Examiner reopened prosecution based on new grounds of rejection. Applicant had previously filed a Notice of Appeal on July 10, 2003 and filed an Appeal Brief on September 11, 2002 in view of a Communication issued in connection with the present application on June 26, 2003.

Applicant has concurrently filed herewith a "Request For Reinstatement Of The Appeal Pursuant To 37 CFR §1.193(b)(2)(ii)" and, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.192(c)(9), the claims pending in the present application and involved in this Appeal are set forth in the attached Appendix A.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Molex Incorporated, having a place of business at 2222 Wellington Court, Lisle, Illinois 60532. Molex Incorporated is the real party in interest by virtue of an Assignment executed by the applicant on September 1, 2001 and recorded in connection with the present application in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on September 21, 2001 on Patent Reel No. 012206, Frame No. 0635.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant and Molex Incorporated, the assignee of the present application, is not aware of any other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal of the present application. Applicant and Molex Incorporated note, however, that a Notice of Appeal and Appeal Brief were filed in this case, but that the Examiner issued a final Office Action in view thereof in which prosecution was reopened.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims in the present application is as follows:

1. Total claims: 1-23.
2. Claims cancelled: 16.
3. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not cancelled: None.
4. Claims pending: 1-15 and 17-23.
5. Claims allowed: 23.
6. Claims objected to: None.
7. Claims rejected: 1-15 and 17-22.
8. Claims appealed: 1-15 and 17-22.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

The applicant did not file an Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116 in response to the June 26, 2003 Official Action finally rejecting claims 1-15 and 17-22, but did file remarks

with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The applicant also did not file an Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116 in response to the December 2, 2203 Official Action finally rejecting claims 1-15 and 17-22.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A. Background

Electric cable connectors generally comprise a rectangular, electrically insulative connector housing. The connector housing includes a plurality of terminals. The terminals each have a tail extending out of one end of the connector housing and suspending in the open air for soldering to respective wires of an electric cable. Because the tail of each of the terminals is respectively suspended in open air, it is difficult to solder the wires of the electric cable to the tail of each of the terminals, and one wire of the electric cable may be soldered to two or more terminals accidentally.

B. The Invention Of The Present Application

The present invention provides for an electric cable connector. Referring to Figures 1 through 3, an electric cable connector in accordance with the present invention is generally comprised of a connector **1**, a cable **2**, and a wire management member **3**. The connector **1** comprises an electrically insulative housing **10** having a plurality of outer walls, terminal passageways **12** within the housing and a plurality of terminals **11** respectively inserted into the terminal passageways **12**. The electrically insulative housing **10** includes a plurality of locating cavities **14**, the purpose of which will be explained later. The tail **110** of each of the terminals **11** respectively extends out of one of the outer walls of the housing **10** for soldering to the cable **2**. The cable **2** comprises an electrically insulative jacket **20** and a plurality of wires **21** extended out of the jacket **20**. Each wire **21** includes a metal conductor **210** soldered to the tail **110** of each of its corresponding terminal **11**.

A wire management member **3** for use with the housing **10** comprises a body portion having a plurality of terminal grooves **30**, a plurality of wire grooves **31**, and one or more positioning rods **32** extending from an outer surface of the wire management member. In the embodiment shown in Figures 1-3, the positioning rods **32** extend from the front face of the wire management member **3** in a direction generally parallel to the terminal grooves **30**. The positioning rods **32** are respectively received within respective locating cavities **14** of the housing **10** of the connector **1**, thereby allowing the wire management member to be properly aligned with the body **10**, and positively secured thereto. Although terminal passageway **12**

and locating cavity **14** are shown in Figure 1 to be joined, terminal passageway **12** and locating cavity **14** can be separate from each other.

The terminal grooves **30** are adapted to receive the tail **110** of each of the terminals **11**. Ribs **33**, which may be integrally formed with the wire management member **3**, are located between adjacent terminal grooves **30**. The ribs **33** are higher than the elevation of the tail **110** of each of the terminals **11** received within the terminal grooves **30**, so that the ribs **33** prevent solder paste from migrating to neighboring terminal grooves **30**. One end of each of the terminal grooves **30** is respectively connected to the wire grooves **31**. The wire grooves **31** in the embodiment shown have a cross section extending more than 180° for positively positioning and retaining the wires **21** of the cable **2** thereon. Once the wire **21** is properly positioned in its respective wire groove **31**, the metal conductor **210** of the wire **21** is properly aligned with the terminal tail **110** to allow the conductor **210** to be soldered to the tail **110**.

FIGS. 4 and 6 show an alternate form of the electric cable connector according to the present invention. One notable difference is that the connector shown in Figures 4-6 include more than one row of terminals **110**. The housing **10** is molded from an electrically insulative plastic or the like, and includes a plurality of terminal receiving passageways **12**, which holds the terminals **11** respectively, keeping the tail **110** of each of the terminals **11** extended out of the rear side of the housing **10** for soldering to the wires **21** of the cable **2**. The housing **10** also includes one or more cavities **14**.

The wire management member **3** in this embodiment is a body portion including a stepped structure comprising two platforms **34** and **35** disposed at different elevations. The upper platform **34** has a grooved topside. The lower platform **35** has grooved top and bottom sides. Therefore, the wire management member **3** has three grooved faces. One common end of the platforms **34** and **35** is provided with terminal slots **36** for receiving the terminals **11**. Terminal grooves **30** are respectively provided at the platforms **34** and **35** and extended to the terminal slots **36** for the positioning of the tail **110** of each of the terminals **11**. The platforms **34** and **35** may be separately made, and then fastened together. Alternatively, the platforms **34** and **35** can be formed integral with each other. The terminal grooves **30** have a substantially U-shaped cross section. Wire grooves **31** are respectively provided at the platforms **34** and **35** in line with the terminal grooves **30** for receiving the wires **21** of the cable **2**. Ribs **33** are provided at the platforms **34** and **35** to separate the terminal grooves **30** from one another and to prohibit migration of solder paste from one terminal groove **30** to another.

VI. ISSUES ON APPEAL

The first issue on appeal is whether independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 21, and dependent claims 2-8, 10-14 and 17-20 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by United States Patent No. 6,039,611 ("Yang"). The second issue on appeal is whether dependent claim 22 is rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by United States Patent No. 6,039,611 ("Yang").

VII. GROUPING OF CLAIMS

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner has grouped the rejected claims into two separate groups, but both groups are rejected based on the same prior art reference, namely, Yang. Thus, claim 1 would be representative of the rejected claims.

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Claims On Appeal

All of the claims involved in this Appeal were finally rejected in the Official Action of December 2, 2003 because the Examiner stated that claims 1-15 and 17-21 were anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by United States Patent No. 6,039,611 ("Yang"), and because the Examiner stated that claim 22 was rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,039,611 ("Yang"). It is the final rejection of those claims that resulted in the filing of this Appeal.

The claims on appeal are set forth in Appendix A. These claims recite various embodiments of a wire management member, a connector using a wire management member or a cable assembly including a connector using a wire management member. The claim indicated to be representative of the claims on appeal, *i.e.*, claim 1, recites an electrical connector for use with an electrical cable having a plurality of wires. The electrical connector comprises a connector body and a wire management member. The connector body comprises a front side, a rear side, a cavity between the front side and the rear side, a plurality of terminal passageways, and a plurality of terminals respectively received within the terminal passageways. The terminals each have a tail extending out of the rear side of the connector body. The wire management includes a body portion having an end face, and the body portion adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals. The wire management member comprises a projection rod projecting from the end face of the body portion, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.

B. The Cited Reference

The Examiner relied on one reference in rejecting the appealed claims, namely, United States Patent No. 6,039,611 ("Yang").

– United States Patent No. 6,039,611 ("Yang")

Yang discloses an electrical connector. The connector includes a plastic body 1, an insertion body 2, two covers 3, a steel case 4, and two interconnecting cables 7. The body 1 includes an upper and lower row of terminals 11 projected from a front surface of the body, and two rearward extended side walls 12 that extend from a rear end of the body 1. Each side wall 12 includes a guide rail 13 on an inner surface of the side wall. The guide rail 13 is further formed at a suitable position with a retaining hole 14. Two vertically extending insertion slots 15 are provided at inner surfaces of the two side walls 12.

The insertion body 2 includes two protrusions 22 formed at two lateral side surfaces of the insertion body 2 for engaging the retaining holes 14 when the insertion body 2 is assembled to the body 1. The insertion body further includes top and bottom front surfaces with a plurality of terminal slots 21 corresponding to the terminals 11. When the insertion body 2 is assembled to the rear end of the body 1, rear ends of the terminals 11 are located in their respective corresponding terminal slots 21.

C. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Of Claims 1-5 and 17-21, And The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Of Claim 22, Should Be Reversed

In the final Office Action of December 2, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,039,611 ("Yang"), and the Examiner rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of United States Patent No. 6,038,611 ("Yang"). In so rejecting the appealed claims, the Examiner has made characterizations to the structure of Yang which are contrary to logic and, thus, should not be used as the basis for the rejection of the appealed claims. Accordingly, claims 1-15 and 17-22 define a structure which is not disclosed in or suggested by the Yang reference, as suggested by the Examiner in the final rejection, and the Board should reverse the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections.

Representative claim 1 recites an electrical connector for use with an electrical cable having a plurality of wires. The electrical connector comprises a connector body and a wire management member. The connector body comprises a front side, a rear side, a cavity between the front side and the rear side, a plurality of terminal passageways, and a plurality

of terminals respectively received within the terminal passageways. Each terminal has a tail extending out of the rear side of the connector body. The wire management includes a body portion having an end face, and the body portion is adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals. The wire management member comprises a projection rod projecting from the end face of the body portion, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.

In rejecting representative claim 1 in the final Office Action issued April 15, 2003 (from which the original Appeal stemmed), the Examiner conceded that Yang does not disclose a cavity in the connector body between a front side and a rear side of the connector body, nor does Yang disclose tails of the terminals extending out of the rear side of the connector body. In order to overcome the shortcomings of Yang, the Examiner directed applicant to Japanese Publication No. 06-231836 ("Yoshihito et al."), and asserted that the shortcomings of Yang were overcome by the teachings of Yoshihito et al. In its original Appeal Brief, Applicant explained that this is not so.

In response to the Appeal Brief, the Examiner issued a second final Office Action, issued December 2, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected the appealed claims solely under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Yang. Contrary to the Examiner's original statement regarding Yang, the Examiner now states that Yang does, in fact, disclose a cavity in the connector body between a front side and a rear side of the connector body, and, thus discloses tails of the terminals extending out of the rear side of the connector body. The Examiner relies on FIGURES. 3-6 of Yang, as well as Attachment #1 which the Examiner attached to the second final Office Action. Attachment #1 is an illustration of FIGURE. 3 of Yang, but which is marked up by the Examiner. A copy of Attachment #1 is attached hereto as Appendix B.

As illustrated in Attachment #1, the Examiner now claims that the cavity of Yang extends from the front side of plastic body 1, past the rear side of plastic body 1, past the tails of the terminals, and to a plane which defines the end of the guiding rails 13. If this is the case, Yang does not disclose each and every element of the structure claimed in representative claim 1.

Representative claim 1 first requires that the connector body have "a cavity between said front side and said rear side" and "the terminals each having a tail extended out of said rear side of the connector body". Thus, from these two claim limitations, it is clear that the tails of the terminals are not positioned in the cavity of the connector body as the cavity is provided between the front and rear sides of the connector, but the tails of the terminal extend out of the rear side of the connector body, such that they are not positioned within the cavity.

Representative claim 1 secondly requires that "the projection rod [be] received within the connector body cavity." As is clearly illustrated in FIG. 3 of Yang, the projection rod of Yang is not received within the cavity of the connector body where the cavity is defined between the front and rear sides of the connector. Rather, the projection rod of Yang extends only up to the rear side of the connector and is positioned within the guide rails.

Thus, the Examiner's attempt to define the cavity as extending from the front side of plastic body 1, past the rear side of plastic body 1, past the tails of the terminals, and to a plane which defines the end of the guiding rails 13, is clearly misplaced and, further, is contrary to a clear cut statement made by the Examiner in the first final Office Action. As such, applicant contends that Yang does not disclose or suggest the structure as defined in representative claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, the Examiner erred in rejecting claims 1-15 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yang, and by rejecting claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang.

IX. CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the appealed claims do define an electrical connector (or a wire management member or a cable assembly) that is not disclosed in or suggested by the relied upon reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of the claims on appeal should not be sustained and therefore should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

MOLEX INCORPORATED

Date: January 30, 2004

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APPENDIX A

1. An electrical connector for use with an electrical cable having a plurality of wires, the electrical connector comprising:

a connector body, the connector body comprising a front side, a rear side, a cavity between said front side and said rear side, a plurality of terminal passageways, and a plurality of terminals respectively received within the terminal passageways, the terminals each having a tail extended out of said rear side of the connector body; and

a wire management member, the wire management including a body portion having an end face, said body portion adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals, the wire management member comprising a projection rod projecting from said end face of the body portion, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.

2. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein the wire management member body portion includes a plurality of terminal grooves, the terminal grooves being adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals.

3. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein the wire management member body portion includes a plurality of wire grooves, the wire grooves adapted to receive the wires of the cable for enabling the wires of the cable to be respectively electrically soldered to the tail of each of the terminals.

4. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein the cavity is contiguous with one of the plurality of terminal passageways.

5. The electrical connector of claim 2 wherein the wire management member comprises a plurality of ribs respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.

6. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein the wire management member body portion comprises a plurality of platforms, at least one of the platforms comprising a plurality of terminal grooves adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals.

7. The electrical connector of claim 6 wherein at least one of the platforms comprises a plurality of wire grooves adapted to receive the wires of the cable.

8. The electrical connector of claim 6 wherein at least one of the platforms includes a plurality of ribs respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.

9. A cable assembly, the assembly comprising:

a connector body, the connector body comprising a front side, a rear side, a cavity between said front side and said rear side, a plurality of terminal slots, and a plurality of terminals respectively mounted in the terminal slots, the terminals each having a tail extended out of said rear side of the connector body;

a cable, the cable comprising a plurality of wires respectively electrically soldered to the tail of each of the terminals; and

a wire management member, the wire management member having an end face and being adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals, the wire management member comprising a projection rod projecting from said end face of the wire management member, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.

10. The cable assembly of claim 9 wherein the wire management member includes a plurality of terminal grooves, the terminal grooves being adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals, and wherein a plurality of ribs are respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.

11. The cable assembly of claim 9 wherein the wire management member includes a plurality of wire grooves, the wire grooves adapted to receive the wires of the cable for enabling the wires of the cable to be respectively electrically soldered to the tail of each of the terminals.

12. The cable assembly of claim 9 wherein the wire management member comprises a plurality of platforms, each of the platforms comprising a plurality of terminal grooves adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals.

13. The cable assembly of claim 12 wherein at least one of the platforms comprises a plurality of wire grooves adapted to receive the wires of the cable.

14. The cable assembly of claim 12 wherein at least one of the platforms includes a plurality of ribs respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.

15. A wire management member for use with an electrical connector having a connector body, the connector body comprising a front side, a rear side, a cavity between said front side and said rear side, a plurality of terminal slots, and a plurality of terminals respectively mounted in the terminal slots, the terminals each having a tail extended out of said rear side of the connector body, the wire management member comprising:

a body portion, the body portion having an end face, said body portion including a plurality of terminal grooves, the terminal grooves being adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals; and

a projection rod, the projection rod projecting from said end face of the body portion, the projection rod being adapted to be received within the connector body cavity.

17. The wire management member of claim 15 wherein the body portion includes a plurality of wire grooves, the wire grooves adapted to receive wires of a cable for enabling the wires of the cable to be respectively electrically soldered to the tail of each of the terminals.

18. The wire management member of claim 15 wherein the wire management member comprises a plurality of ribs respectively disposed between two adjacent terminal grooves above the elevation of the tail of the terminals.

19. The wire management member of claim 15 wherein the body portion comprises a plurality of platforms, at least one of the platforms comprising a plurality of terminal grooves adapted to receive the tail of each of the terminals.

20. The wire management member of claim 19 wherein at least one of the platforms comprises a plurality of wire grooves adapted to receive wires of a cable.

21. An electrical connector for use with an electrical cable having a plurality of wires, the electrical connector comprising:

a connector body, the connector body comprising a front side, a rear side, a cavity between said front side and said rear side, a plurality of terminal passageways, and a plurality of terminals respectively received within the terminal passageways, the terminals each having a tail extended out of said rear side of the connector body; and

a wire management member, the wire management member including a body portion having an end face, said body portion adapted to support the tail of each of the terminals and at least one wire groove for receiving at least one of the plurality of wires, the wire management member comprising a projection rod projecting from said end face of the body portion, the projection rod being received within the connector body cavity.

22. An electrical connector as defined in claim 1, wherein the cavity is provided below the plurality of terminal passageways.

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/960,172
Filing Date	09/21/2001
First Named Inventor	Chun-Hsiang Chiang
Art Unit	2833
Examiner Name	E. Leon
Attorney Docket Number	A1-082 US

Total Number of Pages in This Submission: 15

ENCLOSURES (*Check all that apply*)

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) _____
- ☐ After Allowance Communication to a Technology Center (TC)
- ☑ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to TC **(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)**
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☑ Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below):

Remarks

Request for Reinstatement of the Appeal Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.193(b)(2)(ii); Supplemental Appeal Brief with Appendix A

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual	Robert J. Zeitler
Signature	Robert J. Zeitler
Date	01/30/2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 01/30/2004

Typed or printed	Kerri Richardson		
Signature	Kerri Richardson	Date	01/30/2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**

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